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IO/UNP FOR B. HARRIS, WHA/PPC FOR R. YONEOKA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/22/2016  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [KUNR](#) [PHUM](#) [UN](#) [UNSC](#) [ADCO](#) [GT](#) [VE](#) [BU](#)  
SUBJECT: BULGARIA: DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES UN  
REFORM AND SECURITY COUNCIL COMPOSITION

REF: A. STATE 04746  
[1](#)B. STATE 020173  
[1](#)C. STATE 022833

Classified By: DCM Jeff Levine for reasons 1.4 b and d.

[1](#)1. (C) SUMMARY. In response to reftel demarches, the Bulgarian MFA said that it supports Guatemala's UNSC candidacy, agrees that the Secretary General appointment process should be based on individual qualifications rather than regional affiliations, and supports continued UN reform. Bulgaria also asked for U.S. support of its ECOSOC candidacy. END SUMMARY.

[1](#)2. (C) In an extended conversation on UN issues February 17, DCM raised reftel points with Deputy Foreign Minister Lyubomir Kyuchukov and Emil Yalnazov, Director of the MFA's UN and Global Issues Directorate. Kyuchukov confirmed that the GOB has privately committed to supporting Guatemala's candidacy for the UNSC after receiving commitments for a Bulgarian candidacy in the UN (NFI).

[1](#)3. (C) Turning to the Secretary General selection process, Kyuchukov said that Sri Lanka, Thailand, and the Republic of Korea had already contacted the GOB to lobby for their candidates. Commenting that the three "may not be the best candidates," he said that the GOB shares the USG's view that the selection process should not be based on regional entitlements. Rather, the individual qualifications of candidates from all regions should be considered. In that context, according to Kyuchukov, it is "quite natural that an Eastern European candidate should be considered." Yalnazov said that the Secretary General's position has become "too big a burden for one person," adding that it may be time to revisit the UN Charter to create a new deputy secretary general position with day-to-day operational responsibilities.

[1](#)4. (C) Kyuchukov said that the GOB supports UN reform efforts to further strengthen the role of the UN as the world's "primary peacekeeping organization." He said the reform process must be based on compromise and consensus. Otherwise, discussions could continue indefinitely with no solution. He emphasized that Bulgaria will favorably consider any reform proposals as long as "the role of our region is not diminished." The GOB supports establishing the Human Rights Commission as soon as possible and will follow the EU position on this issue.

[1](#)5. (C) Finally, Yalnazov asked for U.S. support for a position on the Economic and Social Council. It is seeking one of the available seats, competing against Romania and Belarus. According to Yalnazov, Bulgaria has received commitments for approximately 100 votes and believes 30 more are necessary to win the seat.

